क्रमशः 9,62,064,8,79,236 और 8,23,622 युवाओं ने आवेदन किया।

(ग) प्रधान मंत्री रोजगार योजना के अंतर्गत वर्ष 1995-96, 1996-97 और 1997-98 में क्रमशः 2,99,583, 2,91,309 और 2,88,755 युवाओं को ऋण स्वीकृत किये गये थे। राज्य/संघ शासित प्रदेशों से प्राप्त रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, उपर्युक्त वर्षो में सवीकृत मामलों में से क्रमशः 2,24,819, 2,05,912 और 1,43,398 मामलों में ऋण संवितरित किये गये हैं। वर्ष 1997-98 का ऋण संवितरण कार्य अभी भी जारी हैं।

Foreign Investment Promotion Board

2199. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Foreign Investment Promotion Board has rejected some model statelite communication projects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is true that a similar proposal, Indium was, accepted earlier; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such a discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHAT): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, one proposal was rejected by FIPB in July, 1996 since the Ministry of Defence and Department of Space had expressed that the proposal could be considered after specific policy in this regard is formulated. The company has not responded after rejection of their proposal. Another proposal was rejected on the ground that the replacement of the Indian promoter was not permitted under the policy.

(c) and d) Ms. Iridium India Telecom Ltd. has been granted approval to set up an iridium gateway for India and other SAARC Countries for global personal communication. Though the company has been granted approval, yet it is not entitled to operate these services without a valid license from Department of Telecommunications under the Telegraph Act. The policy for providing such services in the country is under finalization and permission to operate will be granted only after the policy is approved by Government.

Scheme to set up Heavy Industry in Assam

2200. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme to set up a heavy industry in the state of Assam to absorb the educated' uneducated unemployed youths, so as avoid these joining anti-social element groups of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by when it is likely to be set up;

(c) if not, the specific reasons therfor; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government thereto and effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHAT): (a) to (d) The Government have recently announced a New Industrial Policy and other concession for the North-Eastern Region. This would encourage setting up of industries in the North-Eastern region including the State of Assam and thereby create employment opportunities for unemployed youths.

Provident Fund Pension Scheme

2201. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Provident Fund Pension Scheme is applicable to all the workers contributing to Provident Fund; and